

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Readers:

This annual edition of the *General Assembly in Review* is the product of the hard work and dedication of all the Editors and Staff of the *Richmond Journal of Law and the Public Interest* (JOLPI). However, I would be remiss if I did not express my special appreciation for the work of Amy Weiss and Mary Garber. Without the long hours and leadership of these two women, this edition would not have been completed. As this is the first issue of Volume XV, we hope you will find that this is the first of a series of quality issues that provokes thought and a healthy debate regarding the important public interest issues facing us today and in the future.

The articles in this year's edition of the *General Assembly in Review* focus on topics of legislative debate during the 2011 session of the Virginia General Assembly. We hope that this edition will give our readers insight into some of the important topics of the 2011 General Assembly and will facilitate further discussion of the important issues facing the Commonwealth.

In *Health Care Reform in Virginia: Lessons Learned Before, During, and After the 2011 Virginia General Assembly*, Hunter Jamerson explores Virginia foray into healthcare reform and discusses possible directions of future legislation in the General Assembly.

In *Legislative Control of the Menhaden Fishery*, Nicole Rovner of the Nature Conservancy and Matthew Curtis, a law student at the University of Richmond discuss the impact menhaden have on the ecosystem of the Chesapeake Bay as well as the economy of Virginia. Their article explores the law regulating of the harvest of these fish and the reform efforts of legislators to conserve the menhaden in the Bay.

In *Top Jobs Act: Higher Education Reform Legislation*, written by Mark Rubin recaps the reform of higher education in the 2011 General Assembly. Mr. Rubin writes about the bipartisan efforts of Virginia legislators and the Governor to create an educational framework that will increase access to the higher education, so that Virginians can gain the skills necessary for the highly skilled jobs of the 21st century.

In, *With Great Technology Comes Great Responsibility: Virginia's Legislative Approach to Combating Cyberbullying*, a comment written by our own new Lead Articles Editor, Kelsey Farbotko examines the growing problem of cyberbullying and the efforts of the General Assembly to address this new and rapidly growing problem.

In, *How House Bill 2063 and the Expansion of Access to Protective Orders Could Have Saved Yeardeley Love's Life*, a comment by our new General Assembly Editor, Amy Weiss studies the expansion of access to protective orders in the wake of the tragic death of University of Virginia student Yeardeley Love.

As usual, this edition of the *General Assembly in Review* concludes with a summary of the major legislation considered and passed in the 2011 Virginia General Assembly. We thank the students who wrote these summaries for their work, and hope these summaries will serve as a valuable resource to all those interested in Virginia lawmaking.

It is our desire that reading these articles and comments will result in a further discussion of the various topics presented, as well as encourage or readers to think about the ways they can help improve the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Sincerely,

Carter T. Keeney
General Assembly Editor 2010-2011